Like countless other people, I have been searching for a suitable analogy which explains what Trump’s tweets are doing to America. Perhaps it’s a historical era like McCarthyism. Maybe a medical comparison works better, with his tweets as uncontrollable cancer cells.

While arguments can be made that both of these at least somewhat work, I found a more satisfying one in an episode of the original *Star Trek* series titled *Day of the Dove*. Itcaptures essential parts of today’s frantic political climate.

The “star” of the episode is an alien. It is a floating blob of pure energy which exacerbates and feeds upon hatred, fear and violence. Klingons and the crew of the *Enterprise* become its pawns, as physical confrontations between them are generated. Eventually, the alien takes control of the ship as it speeds away towards deep space. Perpetual conflict seems inevitable.

Obviously, Trump is the “star” of today. To the chagrin of many of his detractors, he is not an alien. Yet his tweets seem to be affecting American politics in the same way as the alien’s presence affected the rival crews in that episode.

A good example is “Open Borders.” Since July, Trump has linked Democrats to Open Borders in the same tweet eight times. The phrase triggers fear of uncontrolled immigration from our southern border. Exploiting ethnicity for political advantage, Trump hopes that his supporters will be sufficiently triggered to vote in the mid-terms.

That phrase also triggers fears of a backlash against Latinos. Many believe that a suspicious, and sometimes hostile, political atmosphere has developed for them. Democrats hope that this will help them in the mid-terms.

“Fake News” is a favorite phrase that Trump uses to continue his con. He has tweeted that phrase over 270 times since his inauguration. As Trump feels the walls closing in on him, he might accelerate his tweeting of it. Then the anger will deepen from both sides.

Trump supporters will be enraged at the media elites who they believe are biased against him. His detractors will be incredulous that his supporters can’t see the truth of what is going on.

Some people may even threaten violence. I am worried because this has already happened.

In [five tweets](http://trumptwitterarchive.com/archive/enemy) in August, POTUS used the incendiary phrase, “enemy of the people” to describe parts of the media. A California man was recently arrested for threatening to kill employees of *The Boston Globe.* The accused labeled journalists [“enemy of the people.”](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-media/u-s-man-charged-in-enemy-of-the-people-threats-to-boston-globe-idUSKCN1LF1TY)

So what happens if a panicked Trump starts firing people who are investigating him? You can count on angry widespread street demonstrations. What happens if Special Counsel Mueller finds evidence of Trump collusion with the Russians? Or that he has committed multiple felonies? Expect anger from his supporters who will claim that Mueller is trying to overturn the results of the last presidential election.

Have we all become pawns of his tweets, just like in *The Day of the Dove?* Has POTUS hijacked our democracy, just like the alien took control of the Enterprise? Is our nation heading off into authoritarianism, just as the Enterprise was traveling off into deep space?

The episode ends hopeful. Kirk realizes the nature of the alien’s power and convinces the Klingons that it is in their best interest to work together with the crew of the Enterprise. After their battling stops, the alien leaves. It no longer has any power.

Unfortunately, there is no Deus ex Machina for us. We will have to figure this out ourselves.